(b) if so, the total loss sustained by this Company as per latest information available;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated to modernise the working of the Kolar Gold fields and make them a viable unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Accumulated losses of Bharat Gold Mines Limited as on 31-3-1991 amounted to Rs. 76.65 crores.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Due to depletion of ore reserves, low grade and mining at ultra depth, the Company will be phasing out the mines at Kolar Gold Fields on economic considerations.

Revision of Royalty on Minerals

2626. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently revised the royalty rates on 54 categories of minerals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised rates of royalty are applicable to all the States/Union Territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government have revised the rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and minor minerals with effect from 17-2-92. A copy of the notification revising the rates of royalty on minerals has been laid on the table of the House on February 28, 1992. Substantial increase in the rates of royalty of most of the minerals has been provided in order to broadly compensate the State on account of loss of certain State levies on minerals.

(c) to (e) The revised rates of royalty have been made applicable to all States and Union Territories except Assam and West Bengal where the pre-revised rates will continue to apply. The revised rates of royalty will be extended to the States of Assam and West Bengal once these States stop collecting cess and other levies on minerals imposed under their State Laws.

Gold Deposits in the Country

2627. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total produtcion of Gold in the country at present and its value;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to undertake a crash programme to increase the production of Gold in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the latest position regarding the exploration for Gold in the country and the results achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Anticipated production of gold in the country during 1991-92 is 1970 Kgs valued at Rs. 82.77 crores approximately.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Known gold deposits in the country are generally small and of low grade, thus being not amendable to any meaningful stepping up of production on account of doubtful economic viability.

(c) Exploration for gold in the last few years he established only small deposits, generally of low grade.

Accidents in Chasnala Mine Colliery

2628. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that accidents in Chasnala Mine Colliery are increasing;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for the safety of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) the management of Chasnala Colliery Complex has taken all safety measures, required statutorily and othewise, for the safety of workers (and they will continue to be taken). As a result, there has been a significant reduction in the number of acidents in the complex. Details of reduction in number of accidents over the past two years are given below:

Year	Fatal Accidents	Serious Accidents	Reportable Accidents
1990.	Nil	13	100
1991.	1	7	47
1992 (Upto Feb., 92)	Nil	3	7

National Mineral Policy

2629. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to amend the National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration programmes

2630. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the details of major exploration programmes undertaken by his Ministry during the last one year till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): During the last one year Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out regional mineral survey and exploration covering 46 investigations for base-metals (Copper, Lead and Zinc), 40 investigations for gold, 15 investigations for Tin and Tungsten, 13 investigations for multi-metal exploration, 9 investigations for Platinum group of minerals, 3 investigations for Molybdenum exploration, 8 diamond investigations besides investigations for industrial